



Banyule
CITY COUNCIL

Banyule Age Friendly City Advisory Committee

26 August 2021 10.00am – 12.00pm

Online meeting via Microsoft Teams

Present:

Karlene Lang (Austin Health)
Stewart Morritt (Banyule Leisure – Health Club Team Leader)
Catherine Corbett (Watermarc - Community Engagement and Inclusion Coordinator)
Glenn Swafford
Jim Brewer
Veronica Lee
Marcello D'amico
Mary Stringer

Council Officers:

Cr Tom Melican (Chair)

Support Staff:

Kath Brackett (Director Community Programs)
Leanne Horvath (Coordinator Assessment and Community Support)
Ria Thompson (Age Friendly Social Planner)

Apologies

Cr Elizabeth Nealy
Cr Alida McKern
Susan Bell

1. Welcome and apologies

Acknowledgement of the Traditional Custodians - Banyule City Council is proud to acknowledge the Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung people as traditional custodians of the land and we pay respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Elders, past, present and emerging, who have resided in the area and have been an integral part of the region's history.

Banyule Diversity Statement – Our community is made up of diverse cultures, beliefs, abilities, bodies, sexualities, ages and genders. We are committed to access, equity, participation and rights for everyone: principles which empower, foster harmony and increase the wellbeing of an inclusive community.

2. Introductions

This meeting is the inaugural meeting of newly convened Age Friendly Advisory Committee members. Cr Tom Melican invited round table introductions from each new member.

3. Previous Minutes, update on actions

Nil actions from previous minutes as newly convened committee for 2021.

4. Council Update/Committee Processes

Council Update – Cr Melican relayed the recent change to the Local Government Act and that Banyule now has a 20-year plan – “*Banyule Community Vision – 2041*” A link to the plan can be found here:

<https://www.banyule.vic.gov.au/About-us/Policies-plans-strategies/Council-plans-and-strategies/Banyule-Community-Vision-2041>

Committee Processes - Leanne stated that because of the length of time until the next scheduled Advisory Committee meeting (February 2022), we expect to form smaller working groups to meet more regularly on various projects.

Agenda items can be accepted at any time up until two weeks prior to the meeting. There will be a call for agenda items three weeks prior to the meeting – topics can also be covered off under Other Business if required.

All members agreed to the existing Terms of Reference.

Stewart asked for clarification around the Committee’s purpose in terms of achieving outcomes/actions versus adopting a more advisory approach. Leanne indicated that because the current Older Adults Strategic Plan is due for renewal, the Advisory Committee will play a strong role in developing actions from the plan’s strategic directions.

The Age Friendly team welcomes a collaborative working relationship process with the Advisory Committee. This being a smaller committee than in previous years, the input and support of members will be key as we are called upon to provide advice to Council.

Glenn sought clarification about the key priority areas for the new strategic plan – Leanne indicated that these are likely to be transportation, social participation and communication and information.

Leanne also provided context on the Age Friendly Champions group. The group commenced in 2014 when it was identified that volunteers could bring to life some of the strategic plan actions that are also linked to the World Health Organisation Domains:

- housing
- civic participation and employment
- community support and health services
- outdoor spaces and buildings
- respect and social inclusion
- transport
- social participation
- communication and information

The champions group are a valuable resource and the Age Friendly team are focused on really activating this group.

All members agreed to expectations of confidentiality and code of conduct.

5. Inclusive Banyule Committee

Councillors have suggested the implementation of an Inclusive Banyule Committee. This is an umbrella committee and Council are seeking nominations for representatives from all other Council Advisory Committees (one or two from each). The advisory committees that are involved include:

- Multicultural Committee
- Disability and Inclusion Committee
- LGBTIQ+ Committee
- Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Committee
- Age Friendly Committee

This committee will meet quarterly on the 4th Friday of the month between 1.00pm – 3.00pm and will be facilitated by Cr Mark DiPasquale and Cr Tom Melican. Meeting schedule for this committee is as follows:

15 October 2021
11 February 2022
27 May 2022
23 September 2022

Please email agefriendly@banyule.vic.gov.au if you are interested in participating. Thankyou to Catherine Corbett for volunteering as our first representative, there is one vacancy still open.

6. Community Updates

Marcello: indicated he is noticing that loneliness and social isolation is now a real concern amongst older people. Through his work with the Italian Federation informal welfare phone checks have been established to support vulnerable members. Marcello feels innovative options are needed to support people to connect with one another. Marcello reminded the group that many Seniors Festival activities this year are online.

Glenn: Provided positive feedback on the Yarra Plenty Regional libraries, particularly their click and collect and online programs which have been creative options for people to stay connected and engaged. Similarly, Glenn feels health providers have adapted well to provide information and advice on line. Glenn indicated a key area of interest for him is defining some practical actions to achieve outcomes, and potentially looking at creating an online space for the Age Friendly Champions network – especially focusing on the area of social isolation.

Karlene: Indicated that her experience is that many older adults are cancelling health appointments and services. This results in them becoming more deconditioned physically. Karlene asked about online programs for physical activity to address this. Stewart shared this link from Banyule Leisure's YouTube channel which has around 30 sessions : [Banyule Leisure - YouTube](#)

Leanne also made members aware of the Seniors online website with various activities to access - <https://www.seniorsonline.vic.gov.au/>

Veronica: Reiterated concerns about social isolation, and that lack of knowledge/confidence in using technology compounds this. Veronica shared that Greenhills Neighbourhood House provides food relief for people adversely affected by COVID.

Leanne and Ria also reiterated that Banyule has involvement with the COVID response, have been providing frozen meals, welfare checks by the social support team and referrals for emergency relief and food support via the Community Activation and Social Isolation (CASI) initiative.

People affected by the pandemic can contact the State Government's coronavirus hotline on **1800 675 398**.

Cr Melican: Reminded members that Heidelcare volunteer transport association affiliated with St John's church in Heidelberg has permanently closed due to issues with maintaining volunteer pool.

Stewart: Indicates he feels that there are insufficient public toilet facilities in Banyule, particularly around the Ivanhoe/Eaglemont area. Stewart feels that this impacts people's ability to walk around these suburbs.

Ria attached the following National Public Toilet Map for the group's reference - <https://toiletmap.gov.au/>

Glenn: Would like to see communication on the Banyule website be presented in a way that clearly depicts what people in the community **can** access. What activities can you do, either in person or online? Glenn indicated that Boroondara Council's website is a good reference point.

Action: Leanne and Ria to discuss with Communications Team

Glenn also raised the issue of continuing to work on making shopping and eating spaces across the municipality more age friendly.

Action: Leanne and Tom to report on current status of access audits and actions.

Leanne/Ria to invite a representative from Parks/Leisure to our next meeting to discuss.

The group also raised transport as an issue – Leanne has very recently received the community transport review and will discuss recommendations from this with Councillors. There will be scope for this group to be involved in this process.

Ria stated that there is a new program in Banyule Aged Services – the Community Connection Program which supports eligible older people with 1:1 transport options.

Jim: Key issue for Jim is vaccination against COVID-19 and how to encourage more people/make it easier for people to actually get vaccinated.

Mary: Priority for Mary is increasing utilisation rates of the NARI exercise park in Ivanhoe, she feels rates may increase if existing social (formal or informal) groups arranged to meet there, or potentially providing options for transport to get there.

7. Older Adults Strategic Plan

Leanne provided some education and context around the Older Adults Strategic Plan (2017-2021) including:

- How to access it for reference on the Banyule City Council website
- Banyule City Council became a signatory to the World Health Organisation in 2016 for supporting Aged Friendly indicators
- The Older Adults Strategic Plan is now due for renewal – some of this work may now need to happen early next year
- Goals are listed within the strategic plan, and the Age Friendly Team works closely with other Council departments, the Advisory Committee and older adults to be involved in planning for these goals
- Potential action to review Banyule's Age Friendly logo

Some key achievements by the Age Friendly team in this space have been –

- The construction of the NARI exercise park in Ivanhoe
- Participated in national forums on ageing
- Art exhibition – Engaging with Ageing
- Transport Strategy
- Photo Exhibition
- Ongoing consultation with Aged Friendly Advisory Committee
- Consulted with advisory committee on the design of ILCH and the Bellfield Hub

8. Other business

Veronica: Stated her interest in developing outdoor activities for older people, particularly tai chi or gentle movement, and outdoor singing. Catherine has been exploring this option around Greensborough Walk, and states that it can be more feasible to provide the option for outdoor exercise in the current COVID environment. Leanne stated that many future activities will have “parallel plans,” or alternate options if the original plan cannot proceed due to COVID restrictions.

Location of the next meeting is to be confirmed, held on 10 February 2022, 10am – 12pm.
